

Wise County Messenger.

A NEWSPAPER WITH AN OPINION OF ITS OWN.

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DECATUR, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1921.

\$1.50 Per Year

NUMBER 4.

**This Bank is Built
on
--Personal Service
Courteous Treatment
Every Banking Accom-
modation Consistent
with good business**

A GUARANTY FUND BANK

Security State Bank

W. L. Rush, Pres.

J. E. Standley, Cashier

—\$60,000.00 Capital—

**No Depositor Has Ever Lost a Penny in a
State Bank in Texas!**

BANK JANITOR IS CARRIED AWAY BY TWO HIGHJACKS

**Kidnapped and Kept in Can-
yon While Posse Search-
es Bridgeport Country**

Friday night C. M. Porter, night-watchman in Bridgeport and janitor at the First National bank in that town, mysteriously disappeared about nine o'clock while sweeping the floor in the bank. Saturday morning when Porter failed to appear at his home at his usual time, his wife became alarmed and after waiting several hours telephoned Mayor L. D. Kirkpatrick. Investigation resulted in finding the rear door of the bank open, with Porter's coat and broom on the floor together with a loaded pistol belonging to the bank. The pistol was usually kept in the front of the bank and officials stated that it was there when the bank closed Thursday afternoon. Mayor Kirkpatrick soon organized a posse of about two hundred men and a search for the missing man was instituted. The mayor held the belief that Porter had been the victim of high-jackers who had entered the bank with the intention of robbing it, but discovered Porter, who endeavored to arrest them. The fact that Porter had taken the pistol from its place, however, lead some to believe that the nightwatchman had secured the gun and was overpowered by the bandits and then carried away. The searching party scoured the country around Bridgeport for the missing Porter, but failed to find him, and Saturday night the searchers had about given up hope, when as mysteriously as he disappeared, Porter returned to his home. Dazed by his wanderings and exposure and from lack of food and sleep, Porter related a strange tale of kidnapping and abuse. Owing to his condition he was immediately placed under the care of a physician after repeating only the main features of his experience to Mayor Kirkpatrick and other citizens.

Porter's appearance gave every semblance of verity to his account of his disappearance. He was barely able to talk when he stumbled across the threshold of his home, where his wife had been on the verge of nervous prostration. Several bruises were upon his face, his clothes were muddy and torn and his speech almost incoherent. Officials were able to obtain information from him only in snatches and a more extended statement was postponed until Porter had rested. Mayor Kirkpatrick declared that he placed confidence in the nightwatchman's story and believed that a more extended investigation would verify its details.

On account of the warm weather Porter had left the back door open while he cleaned up the back. He was suddenly confronted by four masked men who threw a sack over his head, gagged him with rags and carried him out to a waiting automobile, he declared. Immediately afterwards the machine left town at a rapid rate. Porter says he does not know in what direction it went or how far, but citizens in Bridgeport believe, from his account, that it went west. From Thursday night until sometime Saturday, according to the nightwatchman's story, he was kept a prisoner in a sort of canyon. No food or water was given him during the imprisonment. By Saturday he had become so weakened that he was in a dazed condition. Some time during the day his captors turned him loose and he spent hours trying to find his way back to Bridgeport, finally reaching there about 10 o'clock. None of the numerous searching parties scouring the country under the leadership of Sheriff Malone encountered Porter on his return journey.

Forty dollars was taken from him by his captors, Porter said. So far as he knows they did not attempt to rob the bank after overpowering him. It is the theory of officials that they were frightened away after gagging the nightwatch and carried him with in their haste.

"After seeing and talking to Porter I am inclined to believe his story," Mayor Kirkpatrick said. "His face is bruised and he is apparently suffering from lack of food. He had no trouble here that I know of that would have led him to leave town. I think the men who kidnapped him were frightened away from the bank after overpowering him and had no opportunity to leave him anywhere in their flight."

Much anxiety has been felt concerning the fruit crop during the recent very warm weather. The trees had begun to bud and a few more warm days would have been disastrous. A freeze visited this section Tuesday night, which will hold the buds back for a while.

DECATUR DOCTOR JOINS SAUNDERS FIRM IN FT. WORTH

**Dr. Reeves, One of County's
Most Popular Physicians
Will Move From Here**

Messenger learns with sincere regrets that Dr. L. H. Reeves and family are to move to Fort Worth, where they will make their future home. Dr. Reeves will become a member of the established and successful firm of Dr. Bacon Saunders. Dr. Reeves, after attending lectures in New Orleans, will go to Fort Worth and begin his work, but Mrs. Reeves and daughter, Allah, will not go down until Allah's school term is finished. In the removal of these people, Decatur loses one of its best-liked and most prominent families. The medical profession of the county loses one of its foremost members and the progressive champions of the interests of the town suffer the loss of one of their co-workers; the church and society circles will keenly feel the going of Mrs. Reeves. For more than thirty years the name of Dr. Bacon Saunders has been a household word in this part of Texas, and today he is recognized as one of the best known physicians and surgeons in the south. A master of his profession, he stands at the head, and many honors have come to him from the leading medical organizations in the United States. It is said that the keen and trained eye of the veteran doctor has been drawn to the work and ability of Dr. Reeves, who has for many years been making rapid progress as one of this section's most successful practitioners, and his learning and masterful work caused Dr. Saunders to come to him with a proposition that comes to few small town doctors in the course of their lives. Dr. Saunders has seen in Dr. Reeves what is needed to continue the splendid success that has been achieved by his firm—ability, vigor and ambition. No physician in this part of the state stands higher in the profession than Dr. Reeves, and in the opinion of hundreds who know the worth and ability of the man, the veteran physician has selected wisely. While we all regret to see Dr. Reeves leave Decatur, we know he deserves a larger field, one in which he can develop and grow to the splendid achievements that come to men with his equipment.

Since coming to Decatur, some twenty years ago, shortly after he was graduated from the great Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., Dr. Reeves has been one of our most progressive citizens, and in all movements looking to the best interests of town and community, he has been in the forefront. He has made Decatur a citizen who will be missed, and his friends, and they are legion, while glad his splendid ability as a physician has received such a substantial recognition by one of the south's most prominent medical men, they regret his going.

TWINS AND TRIPS TO FLOOD COUNTRY

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 27.—The country will be flooded with twins, triplets and quadruplets during the next six years, Prof. Charles Kirschhoff, astronomer, predicted today. He said that the conjunction of certain stars with the new moon shows conclusively that the world will be startled by the fecundity of all human races, during the next 4 years especially.

OFFICERS TO MEET ON FIRST MONDAY

A call has been issued for all justices of the peace and constables in Wise county to meet in Decatur in the county court room at 3 p. m. for the purpose of taking some action on a bill that is being prepared for introduction in the legislature, which is intended to benefit the justices and the constables of the several counties of the state. It is the duty of these officers to be at this meeting, and I urge that all in Wise county will attend. T. L. TAYLOR, Justice of Peace, Prec. 1.

J. E. McDaniel was in Childress last week, where he attended a sale of pure-bred hogs. He bought for McDaniel Brothers two very fine sows. One of the sows was received Monday. It was a Poland China 2-year-old and weighed about 550 pounds. McDaniel Brothers are constantly improving their already fine herd of pure-breds, and are making history in the fine hog-raising business in Wise county.

**If You
BANK**

**your
Money
You'll
never
be like
this**



Some smooth stranger with a pretty talk about getting rich quick, got his money in a "wild cat" scheme—when it blew up he worried around and the boss had to let him go. He had lost the "pep" that he used to have.

Now look at him.

If he had put some money in the bank each pay day and left it there, he would have a bank account—and a job.

Put your money in our bank.

First Nat'l Bank

DECATUR - TEXAS

Time to Repair

The best time to make repairs on any farm machine is just before it breaks down. When you see a part getting pretty thin, don't wait for it to break—order a new part at once, and even if you do not put it on immediately, it will be cheap insurance against expensive delay.

Genuine International Harvester Repairs

Give the same care in buying repair parts as you do in purchasing the original machine. Insist upon genuine IHC repairs. Your International farm tools. More, and they are guaranteed to wear as well as the original. In fact, there is no difference between IHC repair parts and machine parts, because they are made at the same time—from the same patterns.

We Sell Them

When you need repairs or extra parts for any International farm machine, come direct to headquarters. We will fix you up on short notice and guarantee the service.

Henry Askey
M MACHINERY HEADQUARTERS

County Newspaper

Wise County
Messenger
In Circulation
In Popularity
In Wise County Homes

Messenger with any other publication and you will find a big difference, in Messenger. "There's A Reason" for its popularity. It's the best.

Farm Loans

On sandy or black land farms. I am now prepared to close up loan contracts without delays on Wise county farm lands either sandy or black land—double option for the payment of your loans.

S. A. Lillard, Jr

—Office in City National Bank—

New Blacksmith Shop

We have bought the Gililand blacksmith shop, and we will compete with any shop prices.

Call and give us a trial!

SMITH & JOHNSON

AMERICAN BEAUTY! AMERICAN BEAUTY!

AMERICAN BEAUTY!

AMERICAN BEAUTY!

AMERICAN BEAUTY! AMERICAN BEAUTY!

Hints to The Wise

To make friends—be kind and wear a smile; To be a good mixer, mix your dough out of—

American Beauty Flour

Sold at

Buttrill Bros.

AMERICAN BEAUTY! AMERICAN BEAUTY!

KEYSTONE NEAR BIG PAY SAND

KEYSTONE WELL LOOKING LIKE A PRODUCER!
The Keystone well, south-east of town, has been the "talk" in oil circles this week and encouraging reports are coming from the well. After passing through a big gas pocket Wednesday the drill hit a hard black lime rock, and it is the opinion of experts who are drilling the hole, and a number of strangers who have been attracted here by the showings, that oil will be hit after this rock is penetrated. Every indication points to a producer. Preparations have been made to take care of the oil when it comes in.
The other wells near Decatur are drilling night and day.

WILSON GLAD TO GET COUNTY'S GIFT

Mr. W. S. Gilbert has received the following letters, one from President Wilson, and the other from Hon. Lucian W. Parrish, member of congress, and they will be of interest to the hundreds of Wise county citizens who contributed to the fund for the purchase of the walking cane which was given the president:
"The White House, Washington, D. C., Jan. 18, 1921.—My dear Mr. Gilbert: I yesterday had the pleasure of receiving a call from the Honorable Lucian W. Parrish, M. C., who brought with him the very beautiful cane which came as a gift from the democrats of Wise county. I shall always treasure this cane, not only because it is intrinsically so handsome and valuable, but more particularly because it is an evidence of generous friendship and confidence. And will you not express to all concerned, my very warm appreciation, particularly of the message which Mr. Parrish delivered along with the cane, a message of endorsement of the work I have recently so much had at heart.
"Cordially and sincerely yours,
"WOODROW WILSON."

From Congressman Parrish

"House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., Jan. 17, 1921.—Mr. W. S. Gilbert, Chairman Democratic Executive Committee, Wise County, Decatur, Texas. My dear Mr. Gilbert: After much unavoidable delay, I succeeded today in presenting the cane to the president, together with a history of the gift, and the photograph of Mr. Woody. The president was very grateful for the cane and was deeply affected and appreciative of the loyal spirit which prompted the gift.

"I am advised that the president made an exception to the iron-clad rule that has been in force for a long time, and allowed me to see him personally and present the gift; the rule has been and still is that no one except cabinet members can see the president personally.
"I am sorry that this delay was necessary, but felt under the instructions given me that I should present the cane personally rather than have it sent in by some assistant and take the chance that it would never reach the president personally. When I left the room I looked back, the president was sitting alone looking at the cane with an appreciative expression on his face.
"With kindest wishes, I am,
Sincerely your friend,
"LUCIAN W. PARRISH."

TEA AT TERRELL'S

When a woman starts a thing she usually sees it through; But when a club of them start a thing There's no telling what they'll do.

The latest start in clubdom is a benefit for the band. It will be at Terrell Lillard's. So bring something in your hand.

Each member of Worth While Club Under whose auspices this is had, Will start it with a dollar, Which isn't at all bad.

There will be good things to eat And punch to wash it down; They expect us all to be there, From every part of town.

The grown ups starts festivities From three p. m. to six; From eight o'clock 'till midnight The young will do their tricks.

Tomorrow week is the day— Which is the 4th of February— Because it comes on Friday, Needn't cause you any worry.

Bring an offering with you For the band must have the loot; They must have some money To help them toot and toot!

ALLISON NEWS

Andrew Kellum and Sam Cox went to Stony Sunday.

We are enjoying a cool norther which blew up last night.

Grandma Gage of near Stony, is visiting friends here this week.

Miss Willie Lewis spent Saturday and Sunday with Mith Letha Cox.

John Cochran, who has been working at Devol, Oklahoma, is here visiting relatives and friends.

A large crowd of young folks enjoyed a musicale given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Mulkey.

Most of the rags seems to be whiped around the Hindus head.

BIG CONSOLIDATION AND Clearance Sale

STILL GOING ON!

The Big Sale at Bellah-Bailey Co. is still going on. We have many BARGAINS to offer you and it will be to your interest to come in and look them over.

Bellah-Bailey Co.

—“The Store for All the People”—

A. J. SHAFER DIED HERE ON TUESDAY

Arthur J. Shafer died at his home in this city last Tuesday morning after a brief illness. The funeral services were held at the residence Wednesday afternoon, and were attended by a large number of friends. Interment occurred in the city cemetery.
Mr. Shafer was seventy-six years of age, and was a native of Kentucky. For many years he has been a resident of the Blewett community, southeast of Decatur. For the past several years he has resided with his daughter, Miss Delight, in this city. Deceased served the Confederacy with honor during the strife between the states. He was a quiet, christian gentleman whose every thought was for the betterment of his home and fellow man. His honorable character has made for him many good friends in Wise county who are said to know of his passing.

SLIDELL NEWS

Mr. Jameson went to Decatur this week.

Miss Mann spent the week-end at home.

Miss Knox spent the week-end at home.

Jesse Ely is spending a brief vacation at home.

Charlie Burton is working in Dallas at the present.

Miss Oona Ely has returned home from an extended visit in Dallas.

The Slidell senior basketball team is expecting Plainview this afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Sid Hayes are spending the week with Mr. Hayes' parents.

Joe Hopkins has recently moved to the old Coffee place near Hickory Plains.

The Sycamore boys and girls will be here Friday afternoon to play basketball.

There will be a contest in spelling at Hickory Plains, between the school and outsiders.

Brother Roberts from Krum, addressed the students in high school Monday morning.

In the spelling contest of January 21, the high school was beaten by Jim Balthrop's team.

Wheat has improved a great deal in the last three weeks, but has plenty of room to improve more.

Miss Virginia Freeman and Miss Ruth Drake spent the night with Mr. and Mrs. Gregg, January 24.

Ballard Powell and Miss Tynne Byrd Young were married Saturday and will make their home here after their honeymoon.

On February 4th, at our next community meet, Mr. Corner and Mrs. Atcheson will prosecute Mr. Watson and Mr. Ried for not gathering their cotton crop. Mr. Hall and Mrs. Pack Pruitt will defend the case.

FLATWOODS NEWS

Mr. Eugene McDonald of Fort Worth, visited friends here Wednesday.

School seems to be doing well; the pupils are beginning to study, as the holidays are over.

Mrs. Hermon Goodger, who has been visiting relatives in this community, has returned to her home in Decatur.

Never see another war that

WINS DECREE OF DIVORCE IN DALLAS

Dallas, Jan. 26.—An absolute divorce, with no prohibition against remarriage in one year, was granted to Mrs. Electra Waggoner Wharton daughter of W. T. Waggoner, Fort Worth millionaire from Alber Wharton last Saturday, it was learned here today. An estate valued at \$3,000,000 was divided, according to Judge W. F. Whitehurst, who issued the decree. Wharton will receive about one-half of the estate, in addition to the Park Hotel here, it was said. Custody of the two minor children, Tom and A. B. Jr., was given to Mrs. Wharton, and the decree allows Wharton to visit the children at any reasonable time, except at the home or place of domicile of Mrs. Wharton.

The petition for the divorce was filed on December 18.

W. T. Waggoner, Mrs. Wharton's father, was decreed six tracts of land in the judgment, which was signed by attorneys of both parties. Wharton was invested with all insurance on his life, certain notes of lien, club memberships, business properties in Vernon, Vernon oil and gas leases, a lot in Fort Worth, the Park Hotel here, with all furniture and fixtures, money and accounts, and an automobile.

Mrs. Wharton received title to certain properties, all stocks and bonds the homestead and other leases valued at \$1,500,000. The Whartons were married in June, 1903, and separated in June, 1920, the petition for divorce alleged. They recently bought a Highland Park home here for \$200,000.

BOYD WINS GAME FROM FORT WORTH

The Boyd town team defeated the fast All-Star team of Fort Worth at Ft. Worth Tuesday night by a score of 63 to 14. The features of the game were the fast guarding of Howard for Boyd who threw ten field goals and not allowing Adair the all-star's stellar performer even one pitch at the goal.

Boyd suffered a handicap at the first of the game, being unaccustomed to playing on an indoor court. Fort Worth started the "treat 'em ruff" stuff at first. At this Boyd felt perfectly at home as the score indicates.

Fort Worth used nine men during the entire game. Four of these were knocked out by the Boyd team. Police interfered in the last half of the fray, when Cook of Boyd threw Hawkins against the wall, dislocating his collar bone. Referee Cash ruled Cook out of the game and excitement prevailed. Boyd team would like to meet any team in the state on home court, as they have played a greater majority of games away from home.—Boyd Cor.

ALAS, ETC.

The play was "Hamlet," and the performance was for one night only. All the townspeople attended the show, and the weekly paper was held open for the notice. The next day the criticism read thusly: "Hamlet was played in our Town Hall last night by Mr. W. and his company. It was a great social event. There has been long discussion as to whether Bacon or Shakespeare wrote the plays commonly attributed to Shakespeare. It can be easily settled now. Let the graves of the two writers be opened. The one who turned over last night is the author."

Word was received here recently that Miss Dora Ella Wason, who was teacher of modern languages in Decatur College last year, had at last succumbed to the fatal darts of Cupid and was married during the Xmas holidays to Mr. Henry Nichols of Arlington. Miss Watson, or rather Mrs. Nichols, is loved by all the students, and it is wished that the student body would never see another war that

ROBBIE PARKS OF BYERS, IS DEAD

Robbie Parks, a grandson of Mrs. M. L. Myers of this city, died at his home at Byers last Saturday. The remains were brought to Decatur Monday and funeral services were held at Mrs. Myers' residence. Interment occurred at Bethel cemetery. Young Parks was nineteen years of age and was a capable and industrious young man.

CHICO NEWS

(Review.)

Earl Hamilton and Miss Gena Sparks, both living in Chico, went to Fort Worth Saturday of last week and were married. They came back Sunday and were given a reception and shower at the home of Witt Stack Monday night and were the recipients of many nice presents. They will make their home in Chico.

Edgar Murray, who has been connected with the Morris Merchandise Company for some time, left Thursday for Dallas, where he has accepted a position with Perkins Dry Goods Company. Edgar is one of Chico's most trustworthy young business men and he leaves many friends here who wish him every success in his new position.

Mike Hines, who has been employed at the Texas stone crusher for some time, died at a sanitarium in Fort Worth Sunday night, January 16, after a short illness. Mr. Hines has been working at stone crushing for many years, and was very industrious and highly respected by those who knew him. He was forty-nine years of age and so far as is known, has no living relatives. He gave C. P. Wood power of attorney to administer his estate. He was buried in Chico cemetery Tuesday.

Senator C. M. Thomas of Baris, Kentucky, also Mr. Stewart, president of the Standard Petroleum Company of Kentucky, accompanied by Col. C. R. Wilmoth of the Wise-Comanche-Burk Company, visited Chico last week and inspected the well east of town. They were highly pleased with the outlook at this well and are now looking over the oil situation at Graham and other oil fields where they have interests. The work on the Chico well is proceeding slowly but steadily, and these men are confident that this well will be a good one—at least all indications cause them to think that way.

McNeese—"Everyday I find something new about my car."
Griffiths—"So do I. This morning I found three hairpins and a powder puff."

BAPTIST WOMEN'S CLASS HOLDS MEET

Last Thursday afternoon the T. L. L. class of Baptist Sunday school met at the home of their teacher, Mrs. H. L. Jones. Meeting opened with short business session, during which the following class officers were elected: Mrs. R. L. Blankenship, president; Mrs. George Foster, 1st vice president; Mrs. Mary Clark, 2nd vice; and Mrs. T. W. Williams, 3rd vice, with Miss Fannie Jones as secretary and treasurer; Mrs. W. E. Mitchell, reporter. Mrs. Jones was re-elected teacher. After business a social hour was enjoyed. Enthusiasm prevailed, and much interest manifested in plans for class work for 1921. Cake and coffee were served to the eighteen present. Three new members were present. We shall be glad to have all Baptist women, and other women not in Sunday school, come to our class Sunday morning at 9:45. Baptist church, where good fellowship prevails, and where we vouchsafe to you a blessing.—Reporter.

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, it has pleased the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe to call from our Lodge here to the Celestial Lodge above the soul of our worthy brother, B. W. Faith, and

Whereas, Brother Faith was a consistent Mason being ever-ready and willing to relieve the distressed, cherish the worthy and brighten the lives of those with whom he came in contact:

Therefore be it resolved: That while we feel a distinct loss in the death of our beloved brother, and that we will ever hold in memory his cheerful disposition and brotherly conduct, yet, we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

Be it resolved further that we extend our sincere condolence to the bereaved members of his family in their loss of a kind and loving husband and father, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to them, a copy furnished the local papers for publication and that they be spread upon the minutes of our lodge.

Respectfully submitted,
R. L. THOMPSON,
JAS. W. SMITH,
G. S. BLEWETT,
Committee.

Decatur Lodge, No. 447, A. F. & A. M.

The price of anything is just what it will bring.

How easy it is to make a million—in the story books.

It's a pity the strength of garlic can't be put to work.

TWENTY YEARS A

Messenger, February 1, 1901

Geo. Durham, Emmett Uncle Domo Christian, and Fletcher from Slidell, were here Tuesday.

The young people of the church have organized a club with George Clark, Jr. as Venor Patterson corresponding secretary; and Miss Edna Cording secretary.

W. A. Bunnell, our photographer, has started his elegant new camera.

Mrs. J. W. number of children in honor of las.

Worth Frazer, who has been ing his uncle, D. W. Frazer, eral months, left for his home thage Thursday.

Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Conley Tuesday morning for Mineral and Hot Springs, Arkansas. expect to be absent several d

Mrs. T. F. McClure is quite well. Dick Cates is in Jacksboro week.

Born, to Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Tuesday, January 2, 1901.

This has been an exceedingly lucky week for Brady Bryan, lost two horses and a yearling horse both dying with bl

Mrs. M. F. Davis of Avon of Jno. W. Hogg, came and will spend two or three days here, and will go to Colorado on

A FATHER'S MATRIMONIAL SURANCE

A successful business the proud father of s was endeavoring to gain young man's

"Yes," said the proud of my girl see them comfort have made a li will not go to less. There's a old, and a re give her five she married; won't see the shall give her and the m forty

HOLDUPS RECALL SAM BASS GANG

By W. S. Adair

It is by no means a new thing for men to go after what seems to be easy money, and there was plenty of excitement in and about Dallas in the latter part of May and the first part of June, 1878, when four train robberies were perpetrated in rapid succession in this vicinity, two on the H. & T. C., and two on the Texas & Pacific railroad. The first robbery was at Allen, the second at Hutchins, the third at Eagle Ford and the fourth at Mesquite. The officers and state rangers scoured the country for the bandits, but did not arrive at even a suspicion as to who they were until after the Mesquite holdup.

The crew was given by a man who knew some of the bandits, and by the arrest of one of the gang who had been shot in the leg at Mesquite, and who had stolen into Dallas for surgical aid. Then it became known the band was headed by Sam who had up to that time earned the reputation of being a law-abiding farmer and stockman of Denton county and whose followers were country boys of Dallas and in counties who had become firm in the spirit of adventure.

Holdups at Allen, Eagle Ford and Hutchins were without specially marked features, the bandits simulating the trains when they were at the stations, as was their custom, and taking what they found in express cars, and leaving the passengers undisturbed. They usually announced themselves by firing shots in order to give the regular blood-and-thunder setting to performance, but avoiding wounding. But at Mesquite the band took on more picturesque acrobatics.

Picturesque Holdups
The first place, Conductor Allen, who had charge of the train, told to throw up his hands as he stepped on the platform, pulled his pistol and began to shoot, making himself the target of a fusillade of shots that he scrambled aboard the train with the bone of his left arm shattered by a bullet, and his hat carried off his head by a charge from a sawed-off shotgun. The shots attracted the attention of the guards of a convict train standing near the station, and one of the guards took a shot at the nearest bandit, but he was obliged to retire under rain of bullets and buckshot.

The three guards of the convict train, J. T. Lynch, now of Dallas police force; Fluellen, who had shot at the bandit, and Henning, with their guns in hand, approached the train from the side opposite the station, but were told by two of the bandits on that side to stop where they were. They replied that they had no intention of interfering, but merely wished to see what was going on. The bandits told them there was no objection to their presence if they would keep quiet.

Threatens to Burn Car.

According to J. T. Lynch, who said he saw and heard everything, the robbers made Jake Zern, station agent, throw up his hands as he came out of the station, and stood up beside him. J. M. Gross, a local merchant who happened to be on the platform. The express messenger closed his car, and refused to open. The bandits saturated the sides of the car with kerosene and told the messenger that they were going to count fifty, and that if the car was not open by that time they would apply a match to the kerosene. When the counter got to "forty" the door of the car flew open and the messenger stepped out with his hands above his head.

"I heard what the bandits said to the express messenger, saw them throw kerosene against the car, and heard the man counting," said Lynch. "He told me to get out of the car and stand up beside him. J. M. Gross, a local merchant who happened to be on the platform. The express messenger closed his car, and refused to open. The bandits saturated the sides of the car with kerosene and told the messenger that they were going to count fifty, and that if the car was not open by that time they would apply a match to the kerosene. When the counter got to "forty" the door of the car flew open and the messenger stepped out with his hands above his head.

"Jake Zern lived on second floor of the station and while the robbers were busy with the express car, Mrs. Zern slipped downstairs and secured what money there was in the station drawer. The robbers did not molest the passengers on the train, but they took a watch and some money from the messenger. They were, however, so well pleased with the nerve he displayed by asking them for a receipt that they returned to him all that they had taken, with the remark that he was all right.

Having looted the car the robbers made a run for their horses, taking with them the man whom our guard, Fluellen, had wounded when he fired a charge of buckshot at him at the beginning of the proceedings. But before they started away one of the number proposed that they go and liberate all the convicts, because Fluellen had fired. The convicts, who heard this proposal, became very unruly, and we were obliged to shoot three of them within the next few days. The wounded robber was sent to Dallas, or came of his own accord, to consult a surgeon, and was arrested along with another of the band and in this way the personnel of the band became known to the officers and rangers."

A company of rangers, reinforced by civilians and officers, under command of Lieutenant June Peak of the rangers, went in pursuit of the band. In the pursuing party, besides the rangers and officers were Alex Cockrell, Tom Floyd, Tom Gerren, Jim Curry, John and William Work, and many other. The posse followed the bandits into Denton county, and thence into Wise county. In their flight the robbers killed one of their

number whom they suspected of bad faith, saying that he snored in his sleep.

At Salk Creek in Wise county, the posse surprised the bandits in camp. Their horses were staked out to graze in a glade while the men were taking the much needed sleep in a grove. Underwood was the only one of the bandits who got to his horse, on which he got away. But seeing that Lieutenant Peak was the only one in charge of the horses, boldly rode back to dispute Peak's claim to the stock. He charged Peak, shooting as he came. But Peak was unable to prevent him from escaping into the timber on foot. In order to render it impossible for the fugitives to regain possession of the horses, Lieutenant Peak ordered the animals shot.

In the running fight which ensued Alex Cockrell and John Work had their horses killed under them, and Arkansas Johnson, one of the bandits, was killed. Eluding their pursuers the rest of the gang secured other mounts and struck across Denton and Dallas counties, making their way into East Fork bottom in Kaufman county, with the rangers and posse in pursuit. In the meantime Lieutenant Peak had secured the services of a spy in the camp of the fugitives. Having followed the bandits out of Kaufman county and as far south as Porter's Bluff on the Trinity river, he received word from his spy that the bandits had planned to raid a bank in Waco on a certain day. Acting on this information, Lieutenant Peak made arrangements to be on hand at the robbery. But before the day arrived a second message from the spy informed the officer that the Waco enterprise had been abandoned in favor of a raid on a bank at Round Rock, where the chances of getting away with the holdup were considered as being favorable.

Realizing that it would be impossible for him to reach Round Rock in time to be present at the robbery, Lieutenant Peak telegraphed Major J. B. Jones, commander of the rangers, who dispatched a company of rangers to the scene. The rangers engaged the bandits on the streets as they entered the town, and in the running fight which followed, Sam Bass, the leader, was killed, and his band scattering, never again operated as an organization though some of the individuals figured for several years in lone holdups.

Just what amount of loot the Bass gang secured in their various holdups no one seems to know. As stated, they never undertook to rob the passengers on the train which they stopped, but were content with what they got out of the express cars. Bass is said to have been a native of Illinois. He came to Texas when he was a mere boy, settling in Denton county, where his people engaged in farming and stock-raising. His band consisted of boys of respectable families in Dallas and Denton counties. Arkansas Johnson who was killed in the Salt Creek fight, was the only one of the number whose antecedents were unknown. Nobody seems to this day to know who he was.

One of the number was killed in Grayson county, another by United States soldiers in Kansas, a third by a United States Deputy Marshal in Dakota, two were convicted and sent to the penitentiary, and two, Bill Underwood and Frank Jackson, have never been accounted for.

Early day bandits were usually frontiersmen, who regarded railway trains, which began to make their appearance in their solitudes, as a species of larger game, and who were prompted as much by adventure as they were by cupidity. They knew little or nothing of commercialism or industrialism. After an exploit they fled into some natural wilderness, the mountains or woods, their superior knowledge of the country giving them a great advantage over pursuing officers.

Up-to-date Bandits.
But bandits nowadays are right up-to-date in the affairs of the world, court dancer, and rather prefer that the police, deputy sheriffs, detectives and secret service men will see proper to appear on the scene than not, as calculated to give zest to their operations, and since the telegraph and telephone wires, automobiles and interurban cars have transferred the wilderness from the mountains and woods to the cities, they no longer figure on a 100-mile chase and the chances of eluding it. They simply turn a few corners, lose themselves in the crowd and turn up the next day for a new adventure just a few blocks removed from the scene of the sensation of the preceding day. The old-time bandit took life only when it was necessary; the modern shoots promiscuously.

SEALED BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the county judge at his office on or before the next regular term of the commissioners' court, which convenes on February 14th, 1921, for a depository of all the funds of Wise county. Said bids must state the rate of interest said depository will pay on daily balances for the next two years and a certified check for \$1000 must accompany each bid as a guarantee on the part of the bidder that if his bid should be accepted he will enter into the required bond.

W. D. PASCHALL,
County Judge.

BRUMLOW NEWS

Mrs. Bob Rogers has returned to her home from Dallas, where she was called to the bedside of her daughter, Mrs. Pink Murphy, who recently underwent a successful operation.

Miss Angie Willis of Black Creek, spent the day with her sister, Mrs. Bob McGrone Saturday.

A. J. Devers received a message Monday night that his son, John, was dying. John was at a Fort Worth sanitarium, and had had a serious attack of tuberculosis.

God judges us by our intentions; not by our deeds.—Browning.

COFFEE MAKES HIT IN LOWER HOUSE

Austin, Texas, Jan. 22, 1921. Messenger, Decatur, Texas.—Gentlemen: Wise county's representative, one of the youngest members of the lower branch of the 37th legislature, is rapidly proving himself to be a leader in legislative affairs. Already he has been named for several important committees of the house. They are:

Committees on—(1) Criminal Jurisprudence; (2) Banks and Banking; (3) Oil, Gas and Mining; (4) Penitentiaries; (5) Public Health; (6) Counties, and (7) Redistricting representative districts.

During the opening week of the session Coffee introduced two important bills in the house. These bills have brought forth expressions of approval from all parts of the state, as well as kindling some sharp opposition in certain camps.

The first of these is house bill No. 143, and proposes to exempt operators of telephone exchanges in towns of 3,000 population, or less, from the provisions of the minimum wage law. Mr. Coffee declared when interviewed, that he was heartily in favor of this law, but thinks that in case of small telephone exchanges, it is impracticable in that no consideration of the unusual conditions obtaining there, is given.

The second bill he has introduced is house bill No. 115, and provided that the present tax of one and one-half per cent on gross production of oil be increased to three per cent on same. And in a succeeding section the bill provides further that all revenue derived from this increased tax shall be deposited with the state treasurer for the benefit of the available school fund.

According to an estimate based upon figures and data which he has compiled, Mr. Coffee asserts that this proposed tax is reasonable, and that it places no heavy burden upon the oil industry. That is a step toward equalizing the burden of sustaining the laboring class, farming class, and general property owners on the one hand, and a wealthy class, who, free from care and tare, have grown rich at the sacrifice of the state's greatest treasures. It does not tax the men who drills and finds no oil, but only places the man who finds, beneath the soil, a hidden treasure, which springs forth like a fountain of gold, making him a millionaire over night, a share of the burden of maintaining our expounding public school system.

If this bill should pass, it would bring in an additional revenue of approximately four millions of dollars, annually. It is obvious that additional funds must be obtained from some source for the maintenance of public schools after the existing specially appropriated funds shall have been exhausted. It will shift most of the burden onto the oil interests, who are taking most of the benefits of our national wealth North, and East, thereby robbing future Texans of the enjoyment of the state's resources.

The oil interests have served notice that they expect to fight the bill to the last ditch. Their lobbyists have gathered at the capitol, and are pulling every wire to bring about its defeat.

Both sides are preparing for the fray, and a right merry party is expected to be had when the proposition comes on the floor of the house, even though the powerful oil interests are confident they control enough votes to defeat the measure.

A FORMER WISE COUNTMAN.

RHOME NEWS

Miss Gertrude Horton, who is a student in D. B. C., spent several days with her parents last week.

Miss Cora Sandlin of Chico, is visiting her sister, Mrs. A. R. Wade.

J. C. Long has sold his home, known as the "Gill House," to S. D. Handley, and has moved his family to Bedias.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Clark and son, Bennie, visited relatives in Ft. Worth Sunday.

Miss Zora Brown spent last weekend in Fort Worth with Mrs. Clyde Hurley.

Mrs. Frank Cox and children of Marion, Ohio, who have been visiting J. W. Sparks and family have returned home.

W. L. Leach and Charlie Sparks of Seminary Hill, visited relatives here last week.

Miss Etta Mae Hutcheson of Sherman is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Hutcheson.

Mrs. Z. B. Bobo is visiting her daughter, Mr. J. B. Castleberry of Wellington.

Miss Gypsy Coates spent Sunday in Dallas, the guest of Miss Lila Smith.

L. B. Finleyson of Flint, Mich., is with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Finleyson for a visit.

Mrs. D. T. Morris and Miss Mattie Sullivan were in Fort Worth Wednesday.

Robert Stephens of Houston, was in Rhome Sunday.

Grandma Handley, who has been visiting in Tupalo, Miss., for several months, returned home Wednesday.

Paul Davis of Decatur, was guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Stone first of the week.

Mrs. Laura Vanmeter of Decatur, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. V. C. Wright.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Holt entertained with forty-two party Monday evening. Those present were, Misses Midget Wright, Glennice Looney, Cassie Russell; Messrs. John Sparks, Thurman Hudnall and John Naugle.

Supplies for Your SPRING FARM WORK

Special Prices on HARNESS GOODS, such as bridles, lines, breeching, back bands, and all kinds of strap goods.

Good line of Wagons, Buggies and Implements.

Full stock of clevises, plow handles, sweeps, hoes, rakes and shovels. Poultry netting, galvanized and painted iron.

We can supply all your wants in Graniteware, Auminum Quensware and Hardware.

Remember we have a large and complete stock of Automobile Casings and accessories. Anything you may need in repairing or refitting your car you can get here.

SPECIAL PRICES ON COOK STOVES FOR WOOD AND GAS

Buy now and get the benefit of the Special Prices we are making on many of these goods.

LILLARD & CO.

—THE WINCHESTER STORE—

John Naugle is visiting his parents at Saginaw.

R. L. Ferguson and family and A. B. Vanmeter and family motored to Bridgeport Sunday as guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Bowlin.

Mrs. Otie F. Oates of Ft. Worth, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Willis.

Rev. A. J. Leach was in Iowa Park Saturday and Sunday.

Joe Sparks, Misses Zaeta Morris and Eula Mae Renshaw were in Ft. Worth Sunday, guests of Miss Iota Morris, who is a nurse at Johnson's sanitarium.

IMMORTALITY

If we work upon marble, it will perish; upon brass, time will efface it; but if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love of our fellowmen, we engrave on those tablets something which will brighten to all eternity.—Daniel Webster.

THEY DID IT SOON

The proprietor of a large business house bought a number of signs reading, "Do It Now," and had them hung around the office, hoping to inspire his people with promptness and energy in their work. In his private office one day soon afterward a friend asked him how the scheme affected the staff. "Well, not just the way I thought it would," answered the proprietor. "The cashier skipped with thirty thousand dollars, the head bookkeeper eloped with the private secretary, three clerks asked for an increase of salary, and the office boy lit out to become a highwayman."

A LONG-DISTANCE LECTURE

A pretentious person recently said to a prominent resident of a New Jersey town: "How would a lecture by me on Mount Vesuvius suit the inhabitants of your town?" "Very well, sir; very well indeed. A lecture by you off Mount Vesuvius would suit them a great deal better than a lecture by you in this town."

HER HUSBAND WAS NERVOUS

"Julia," said the new-rich mistress of the mansion, "be sure to mash the peas thoroughly." "What, ma'am?" exclaimed the puzzled maid, "Maid the peas?" "Yes, I say mash the peas. It makes my husband very nervous at dinner to have them roll off his knife."

If a man does the best he can, and declines to brag about it, he is a pretty good chap to tie to.

MANHATTAN CAFE

—East Main Street—

Is conducted on a high plane, where you can get what you want to eat at prices that are in keeping with the times. Your patronage will be appreciated, and we will endeavor, by giving first-class service, to merit it. The Manhattan closes at 12 p. m. and opens at 5 a. m.

HANNON BROTHERS, Proprietors

"Made Me Well and Strong"

ANOTHER WOMAN WHO IS THANKFUL FOR

PE-RU-NA

"I have taken several bottles of Pe-ru-na and find it a great benefit. I had pains in my stomach and bowels, but by the use of Pe-ru-na and Ma-na-lin, I am well and strong again. I always keep a few bottles in the house." Mrs. OGDEN Goss, R. F. D. No. 2, Box 19, Nichols, Iowa

Mrs. Gray's experience is just more evidence that Pe-ru-na is quite as good a remedy for catarrh of the stomach, bowels or other organs as it is for coughs, colds and nasal catarrh. Pe-ru-na is a wonderfully fine medicine to have in the house for everyday ills. Send to the Peruna Company, Columbus, Ohio for free booklet and medical advice.



Tablets or Liquid
Sold Everywhere

SAMBO ASKED TO BE EXCUSED

A negro, a new assistant on a farm, was asked to hold a cow while the farmer, a cross-eyed man, was to hit her on the head with an axe. The negro, observing the man's eyes, in some fear inquired: "Is you gwine to hit whar you look, boss?" "Ya-as," replied the farmer. "Den hold de cow yourself, sah."

Sam—"How should I manage a campaign?" Herman—"Promise anything." Sam—"I mean to win a girl—not an office." Herman—"The same rule applies."

The Better Way

Never disobey Nature's warning. It's far better to forestall weakness with nourishment that protects.

Scott's Emulsion

after meals for child or adult, is a wonderful help in forestalling weakness. Ask for Scott's. Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J. 20-15

WISE COUNTY MESSENGER.

ESTABLISHED 1880

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DICK COLLINS and MARVIN B. SMITH

Editors and Proprietors

Most Widely Circulated Paper in Wise County.

MEMBER TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Any erroneous reflections upon the character, standing or reputation of any firm, person or corporation which may appear in the columns of the Messenger will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the publishers.—Collins & Smith, Publishers.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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Friday Morning, January 28, 1921.

Ring the curfew bell at nine!

Peanuts, poultry and pigs; less cotton.

Smile through the tears and there will be no tears.

What became of the infant industries in the shuffle.

When women kiss each other they are doing men's work.

Keep your eye on the Wise county oil field. It's coming in.

The speeders' open season closes tomorrow, Saturday, January 29.

By the way, did Judge Barry Miller get that federal appointment.

Ignorance is not bliss; it is h— and repeat, remarks an exchange.

When boots and shoes reach pre-war prices, hides will head the free prize list.

More poultry and dairy cows will drive away the blues caused by short cotton crops.

Mr. Rockefeller is optimistic. Who wouldn't be with a Rockefeller account to draw on?

Here's hoping President Wilson will have a firmer hold on that Wise county cain than he has on congress.

Contrary to the time-honored custom, a few of the city policemen are recovering more than the stolen property.

A few dairy cows and a few hogs to fatten on the skimmed milk is proving the salvation of many Wise county farmers.

The president will appear in the class when he hits Pennsylvania avenue with that Wise county cain in hand.

The money necessary to build a dreadnaught will construct several miles of splendid road-bed. Let's put up the gun and travel more.

We would suggest to the gentlemen who are going to take over Charley Culberson's seat in the senate, to wait until C. A. quits the job.

A school janitor receives a better salary than the teachers in the Decatur high school. Moral—Boys and girls, learn to be janitors and janitresses.

Bridgeport deserves honorable mention in the big news of the state. The old town had a near-bank robbery, which helps some in getting on the map.

Senator Williams of Wise, a brand new member in the legislature, is a member of eight committees of that honorable body. Some showin' for a new one, eh?

Congressman Parrish seems to be on the job when he is needed. Lucian, the congressman, looks better to the Messenger than Lucian the candidate ever did.

Come on, Rominger, Burk-Waggoner, Carey and Bridgeport-Lubbock. And you, Bock-Wilmoth. The people are waiting in breathless expectancy. Honest, they are.

Robbery has become a recognized industry in the towns of Ft. Worth and Dallas, and, they say, a very profitable one, too, with little risk from molestation by the police.

Col. Henry Watterson has been invited to address the Texas legislature. A good, wholesome lesson in democracy will be of great benefit to a number of the law-makers.

Mr. Farmer, are you selling cream or milk in Decatur? Hundreds of farmers are doing this and making money each week—more than enough to pay their living expenses.

North Trinity street is almost impassable. Messenger rises to suggest that this street be looked after by the road-working department of the Meridian Highway. The street is a part of the highway.

An effort is now being made by the champions of the "blue laws" to have the state fair closed on Sundays. Righto, Watso; legislate 'em into jail if they refuse to follow our present program for the Sabbath.

"A Subscriber" gets bad at the Messenger for stating that the Decatur high school teachers are not paid enough in salaries, by remarking vociferously in black ink "the teachers are paid all they are worth." Wrong, Mable; but, just for fun let's admit you have rung a stag's eye; then, why not raise the stipend and invite more competent instructors?

Mayor Wozencraft of Dallas announce that he will not be a candidate for re-election. Probably, Mayor Frank wants a little rest before the coming of the delegations soliciting him to run for governor.

Gov. Neff is a Baylor man, as is also Speaker Thomas of the house of representatives. An exchange has remarked that when the roll-call is made of the official family at Austin it sounds like that of a Baylor homecoming jubilee.

Our girls continue to wear the matted gobs of hair over their ears. The girls of Bridgeport, Boyd, Greenwood, Paradise, Chico, Alvord and Rhome have discarded the style, having learned that such hair-dressing has been sent to the scrap heap.

Congressman Blanton, known in the east as "Bleating Blanton," is mentioned as a candidate for United States senator, to succeed Senator Chas. A. Culberson. Blanton is some runner, it will be admitted, but we are of the opinion that when he enters the senatorial free-for-all he will be out of his class.

Put on your lights, Mr. Automobile Driver. And we would suggest that you brush up your car number, and cut out that speed of thirty and forty miles per while driving on the square and streets of Decatur. The officers say your day of reckless driving ends tonight. Tomorrow 'Squire Taylor will be on the job.

A school marm in the Lick Kettle community receives \$180 per month for teaching twelve children. A teacher in the John Brown ward school receives \$70 per month for teaching forty-nine children. Probably, and perhaps, the difference is allowed for the upkeep of the auto or cart used by the instructor in the Lick Kettle school.

Millions of gallons of good whiskey are being bootlegged into the United States from Canada, and the victorious republicans along the far-flying bottle line between the two countries are deriving the benefits. Such unequal distribution of the world's goods is what makes the burdens burdensome in this vale of tears and tribulations.

Gov. Neff has abolished the board of pardons. It seems that the board has been working overtime, and as a result many fellows that should be doing time are circulating as free men throughout Texas. Suspect that a considerable amount of politics has been played with the board, and, you know, this is contrary to a stable and satisfactory government.

It appears that Governor Neff is not running true to form, according to the hopes and expectations of the politicians in his church. The governor is making appointments in the ranks of Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Christians. This is causing the "religious politicians" much uneasiness and a goodly portion of chagrin. Continue the good work, Mr. Pat.

Former Senator Bailey has purchased a string of good horses from a Kentucky horse-dealer. What other proof is needed, brethren and sisters, to convict this man Bailey of being "gone beyond redemption." And, ye gods, say the horses are fleet of , and, if you have tears to shed open wide the ducts, Bailey intends to have the horses trained.

Dr. L. H. Reeves, who goes to Ft. Worth to form a partnership with Dr. Bacon Saunders, has always taken a prominent part in the movements to push the interests of Decatur, and he will be missed. The Wise county fair association had no more loyal supporter than Dr. Reeves. Since its organization, in sunshine and shadow, he has stood by this enterprise, one of the best in this section of the state.

The citizens of North Trinity street are talking of petitioning the city council to furnish a boat with which to navigate that street during rainy weather. This, or some other means should be taken to overcome the deplorable condition of this street. North Trinity is a part of the famous Meridian Highway, and even farmers are registering kicks with the Messenger on account of the bad condition of the thoroughfare within the city limits.

Well, well, well! It is here in full force and effect, but the impression made is not satisfactory. We have reference, gentle readers, to the ankle watch. A little innocent-looking and unsophisticated girl, budding around seventeen, from one of the near-by communities, presumably Griggsby's Store, arrived in town one day this week with a perfectly good time-piece securely buckled on her ankle. Objection is made on the ground that any girl who is not so constituted or constructed, as to

draw the attention of the passing he-throng to her ankles without artificial adornments, should be forced to wear horse-hide gaiters with the hair on 'em. Ankle adornments of the artificial kind are not needed by a democratic majority of Delightful Decatur's girls. So, there!

Zounds! The government engineer has recommended to congress that the appropriations, amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars, be withdrawn from the Trinity river navigation project. Too bad, but it will be remembered that a certain senator, living at the time in Gainesville, Texas, told some Fort Worth friends that the Trinity river would never be made navigable. That was years ago and 'steen thousands of dollars have been spent, yet there are no boats in sight of the metropolis.

It is said that Decatur has a curfew law. We know that at one time an effort was made to enforce such a law in this city. If the law was ever needed in Decatur, it is now. If the parents will not see to it that their children are at home by nine o'clock at night, the officers should undertake that duty. The boy or girl who roams about town at night does not do good work in school, and cannot be controlled by the parent, and besides, children who are not kept at home at night will eventually get into mischief which may result in a criminal career. Let's have the curfew.

Governor Neff makes a good start toward being governor for "every man, woman and child residing in Texas" in his inaugural announcement that political by-gones are by-gones with him, and that he purposes doing his utmost to give citizens of Texas an economical, efficient and non-partisan administration. The inauguration was attended by one of the greatest crowds that ever saw a similar ceremonial in Texas; the new governor goes into office with probably fewer personal pledges to individuals than most of his predecessors. And we venture that a great majority of the people of Texas are wishful for him a most successful administration. We know we do.—Denton Record-Chronicle.

As you are probably too busy to dig down into highbrow reports and statistics we have been doing it for you, and are thus enabled to announce with what we believe to be conservative estimation that the present period of unemployment and tight times because of readjustment will reach its peak inside of sixty days, and by the first of April, and maybe before, the tide will turn the other way. No tide ebbs but it flows back, and no clock pendulum goes one way without going just as far the other. Banks are already loosening up on credits, which is one big thing. As soon as industry gets its price and wage scale adjusted, it will boom again, and that will not take two months; it is getting adjusted very fast right now. Indications for another bumper crop were never better. Change in administration has brought about more confidence. We predict that 1921 will be the biggest year in real prosperity this country has ever witnessed. There will be less get-rich-quick business, but more accumulation and saving by the general public. There is every good reason for cheerfulness, hope and optimism, and none whatever for gloom, pessimism and the croaking of human frogs.—Olney Enterprise.

NOT FARMERS.

We have been told by farmers: "What do you Messenger editors know about farming that you should advise us how to 'get by' on the farm?" It is a fact that the Messenger editors are not and have never been farmers, but we claim the same intelligence which we attribute to the wide-awake farmer—that of picking out the successful farmer and advocating the method he adopts in making farming a success. For instance: It is not difficult to note the successful farmer, or the one who is living at home. When he comes to town with enough produce to buy what he needs to take home and puts a little surplus in the bank each week, it does not require expert knowledge to know that he is not only "getting by" but is getting ahead. That is why the Messenger has been advocating diversification for many years. The day of the one-crop farmer is gone. In his place is developing the farmer who has something to sell every week of the year, and maybe he raises a little cotton. Feed and food crops are the most necessary, because with food the family may be fed, and with feed the stock, hogs and dairy cattle may be run through the winter. Had not Wise county farmers planted a large feed crop the past year, we would all be suffering at this time. It is said that money is scarce in the country, but farmers have plenty of feed, and those who are milking a few cows and feeding a few hogs are managing to get the needed cash each week. A cream agent in Decatur who buys cream from about 200 farmers says nine out of ten who sell cream to him always have the cash to pay for the things they need to buy. This statement is pretty good argument in favor of keeping a few dairy cows on the farm. No, Messenger editors are not farmers, but we believe we know a farmer when we see one.

SIZING IT UP

What's the matter with the country these days? Too many diamonds and not enough alarm clocks. Too many silk shirts and not enough flannel ones. Too many serge suits and not enough overalls. Too much decollete and not enough kitchen aprons. Too many consumers and not enough producers. Too much envy of the results of hard work and too little desire to emulate it. Too many desiring short cuts to wealth and too few willing to pay the price.

Spring Dresses Coats and Suits

The buyers for all the departments of Perkins-Timberlake Company's Associated Stores, are in the Eastern Markets this week buying SPRING MERCHANDISE for their many stores, and, judging from the duplicate purchases that we are receiving daily, they must be in the FASHION CENTER of the East. We feel reasonably sure that we will be able to show you the very latest creation of fashions by next Saturday and early next week. Do not take this to be a STYLE SHOW—just simply an invitation to come where they show the newest first.

There are many reasons why you should let us show you, and many reasons why you should let us SELL you.

"We Show Them First—We Sell for Less"

New Spring Dresses.....\$22.50 and \$32.50

New Spring Coat Suits.....\$19.50 and \$37.50

New Spring Coats.....\$19.50 and \$32.50

Perkins-Timberlake Co.
ASSOCIATED STORES

DECATUR — TEXAS

THE GROUCH.

The grouch is found most everywhere —his greatest joy is meddling; He loafs around the country store, his gloom and venom peddling; He criticises everyone, officials, merchants, teachers, And seems to have a special grudge against the church and preachers. The editor is always wrong, the banks are weak and shaky; He kicks about the sidewalks and the stuff they use for paving. And sees no good in this or that unless it's money saving. In cities, too, the grouch is found, contemptible and sneaking. And sometimes gets to congress with his poison-ivy speaking. He has no place in this fair land, so, solving a dilemma, Let's ship him off to Russia to be company for Emma. —Charles Frederick Wadworth.

MILLIONS FOR CLERKS; THOUSANDS FOR HEROES.

A year and a half ago, a Dallas soldier received his discharge papers at San Antonio. Army doctors told him at the time that he was losing his eyesight as the result of wounds sustained in fighting hand to hand with German machine gunners. He had been gassed and he had been almost brained by a German rifle butt. Through efficiency in the service he had risen from a private to the commander of a company.

For bravery, which inspired the whole division in which he served, this soldier won a Croix de Guerre with two palms, the American Distinguished Service Cross and the rare honor of being created a Cavalier of the Legion of Honor. Owing to wounds received in service he was advised to file his claim for the compensation so widely advertised by the war department. He did so on the day of his discharge. After a lapse of eighteen months during which time his sight has been steadily failing, he received a letter from the war risk bureau. A grateful government enclosed a check for \$8,000—the amount agreed upon by some committee of Washington chair warmers as a just monthly compensation. The check was probably written out by some pert little stenographer with political pull whose salary is possibly \$150 a month. A score of well paid experts had probably passed the claim from one mahogany desk to the other for wise consideration. It took them over a year to deliberate on spending so vast a sum.

While thousands of disabled soldiers wait patiently for the aid which their government owes them, red tape, as deadly as the twisted barb wire in Flanders, seems to still enmesh Washington bureaus and departments and cause continued suffering. Compensations for wounded men

who deserve them and urgently need them are slow to arrive and when they do come they are in many cases inadequate.

Millions to employ political clerks and only thousands for disabled soldiers seems to be the system on which government offices in Washington are run.

Quantity, not quality, seems to be the method used in employing thousands of inefficient underlings.

Heroes suffer and the income tax soars. And the blind Dallas soldier? He mailed back his eight dollars to the government, a friend noting on the letter that if loss of eyesight was only worth eight dollars to the United States the soldier wished to keep his self-respect.—Dallas Times-Herald.

CURTILMENT OF PARDONS IS BLOW AT CRIME WAVE.

The Times-Herald heartily approves the action of Governor Pat M. Neff in abolishing the state board of pardons. Not because of the personnel of the board, which was excellent, but because of the system permitting almost unlimited clemency, which was entirely wrong. The governor in declaring for the closest investigation and the greatest restriction in granting pardons to convicted law breakers strikes a body blow at the crime wave which is distressing Texas in common with the rest of the nation.

"For the last six years pardons and paroles have been granted at the rate of three a day," writes the governor in his message which terminates the pardon board. "The too free granting of pardons weakens the law and makes of its enforcement a farce. The constantly growing tendency that makes easy the securing of pardons is one of the several things that are encouraging just at this time violations of the law. I desire to place myself in opposition to this rapidly increasing disrespect for the courts and the law of the land."

By abolishing the board Governor Neff indicates the granting of pardons in the future will not take up much of the time of a very busy man. The criminal placed behind the walls of the state prison in future need not rest snug in his contentment that in the avalanche of pardon applications his plea for clemency, handled by expert lawyers or politicians, will prevail.

The judgment of the courts are no longer to be scoffed at and set at naught. A prison sentence in Texas should not spell real punishment instead of a few weeks served on a ten-year term and then liberty. Highwaymen, thieves and robbers may think twice before daringly playing their trade. Citizens will be correspondingly protected.

The governor says that actual reasons for a pardon must be presented by the district judge convicting the prisoner and that even after this presentation the fullest investigation will be made into the facts of the case. Men behind the bars will stay there unless evidence is overwhelmingly that they should be let out.

And now Governor Neff, keep up the good work. The suspended sentence law is another Texas statute which is abused almost daily. Crocodile tears of criminal lawyers melt tender hearted jurymen to pity almost every time a youthful automobile thief, burglar or check raiser stands before the bar for trial. Matter if he has robbed and stole for years previously the suspended sentence is asked for and often granted.

The suspended sentence law was not framed for such usage. Ask for its repeal? Herald.

YES, HE'S T

He may wear a last year's hat; his finger nails may be insecure; his vest may hang a little loose; and his pants may bag at the knees; his face may show signs of a second-day's growth, and the tin dinner bucket he carries may be full of dents and doughnuts; but don't you call him "the old man." He's your father.

For years and years he has been rustling around to get things together. Never once has he failed to do the right thing by you. He thinks you are the greatest boy on earth, bar none, even though you plaster your hair back, wear smart clothes, smoke cigarettes, and fail to bring home a cent. He is the man who won the love and life partnership of the greatest woman on earth—your mother.

He is "some" man and not "the old man."

If you win as good a wife as he did, you will have to go some.

W. A. ASKEW BEN SHORT

PANHANDLE LANDS

We have farms and ranches in Potter, Deaf Smith, Randall, Farmer, Oldham and Dallam counties for sale at

INVESTMENT PRICES

We also handle Amarillo City Property

ASKEW & SHORT

ROOMS 24-25 FUQUA BLOCK

AMARILLO, TEXAS.

More than \$60,000.00 Worth of Merchandise Thrown on the Market AT A SACRIFICE

EXTRAORDINARY TIMES DEMAND EXTRAORDINARY METHODS

With our many years of business in Decatur, never before have we deemed it necessary to put on a CUT-PRICE SALE in all our departments; but after inventory, we find that we are too heavily stocked in all lines, and in order to reduce our stock and turn same into cash, we will offer the people of Wise county

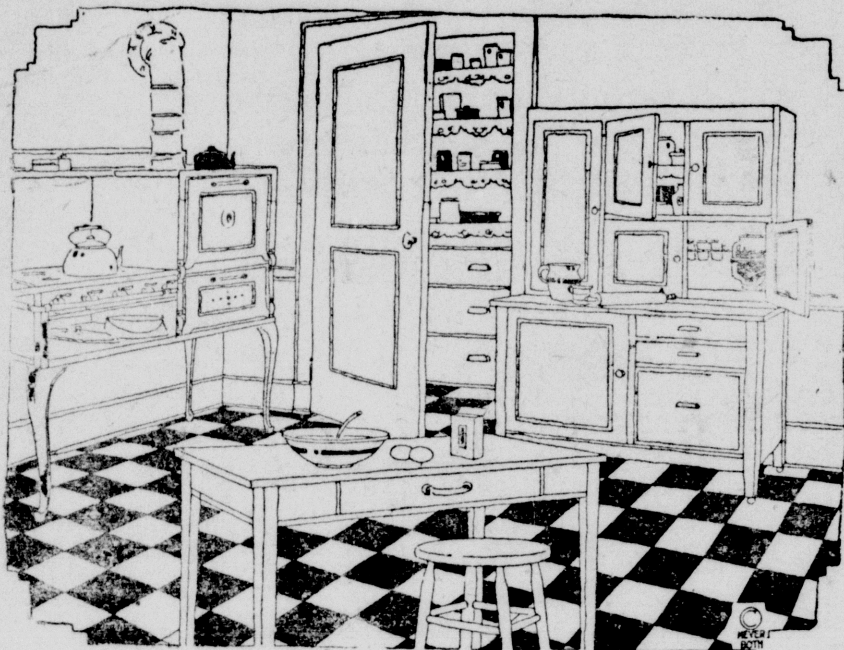
Real Bargains in Hardware, Farm Implements, Wagons, Buggies, Harness Goods, Saddles, Furniture and Groceries

Beginning Saturday, Jan. 29, Lasts 10 Days, Closing Wednesday, Feb. 8

Bear in mind that this great SACRIFICE OF GOODS WILL ONLY LAST TEN DAYS, and it will be to your interest to SUPPLY ALL OF YOUR NEEDS IN ALL OF THESE MANY LINES WHILE YOU CAN SAVE MONEY! Take special notice of the fact that

More than \$14,000 Worth of Groceries Go on sale at Bargain Prices

For lack of space, it will be impossible to quote the prices on all articles in this big stock, but we quote prices on a few items so that you can have an idea of the MONEY YOU WILL SAVE BY LAYING IN A LARGE SUPPLY OF GROCERIES DURING THIS SPECIAL SALE.



BARGAINS IN OUR HARDWARE DEPARTMENT

Washing machines, regular price \$16.50, now at \$9.95
Four-burner QUICK MEAL oil cook stove, with high back, formerly \$42.50, at \$32.50
Queen Bee gas cook stove, regular price \$38.50, now \$29.95
Quick comfort gas heaters, No. 940, regular price \$14.00, now \$11.95
Quick Comfort gas heater, No. 950, regular price \$16.50, now \$13.95
Quick Comfort gas heater, No. 960, regular price \$18.00, now \$14.95
Single-bit Blue-Grass axes, former price \$2.75, now \$2.25
Double-bit Blue Grass axes, regular price \$3.25, now \$2.75
Extra heavy stove pipe, regular 35c per joint, now 25c
One good second-hand DeLaval cream separator, cheap at \$50.00, now only \$34.00
25 per cent discount on all pocket knives.
You will find lower prices in practically all departments of our hardware stock.

SPECIAL TERMS

We can make terms on Wagons, Buggies, and Implements, but not at these bargain prices.

BARGAINS IN GROCERIES

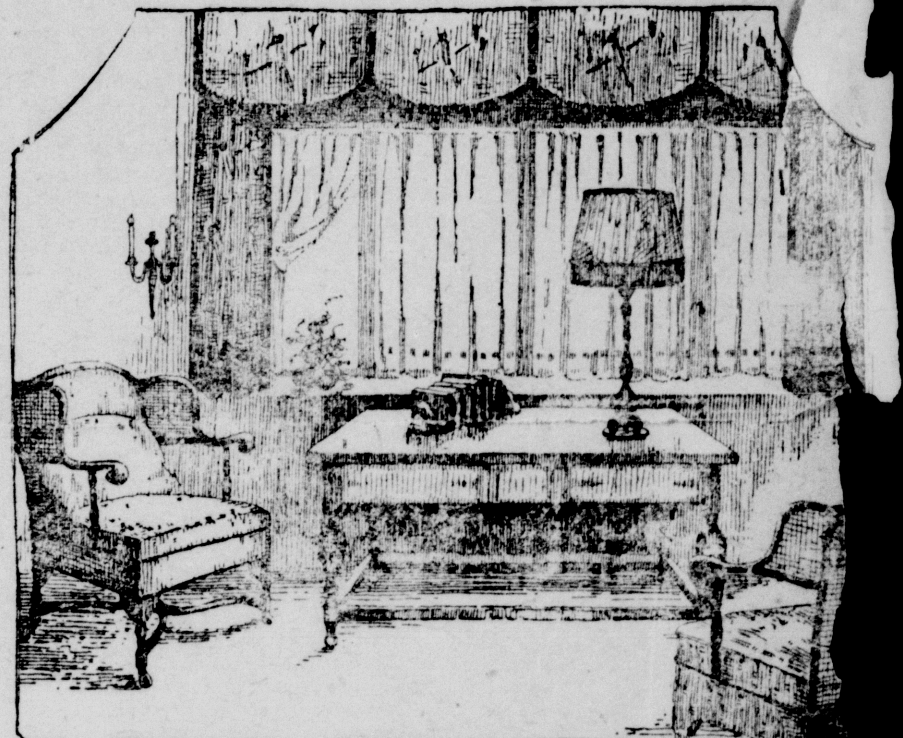
11 lbs. Sugar for \$1.00 to each customer
6 lbs. Rio Coffee \$1.00
5 lbs XXXX Coffee \$1.00
12 bars Universal soap 25c
One-pound can baking powder 15c
Kellogg's Korn Flakes 15c
Corn Flakes 10c
Wild Rose syrup, per bucket 35c
Red Karo syrup, per bucket 65c
Special prices on flour, canned goods—in fact everything in the grocery line will be sold at reduced prices. We have just received a car-load of the noted Peacemaker flour.

BARGAINS IN HARNESS and SADDLERY DEPARTMENT

Jumbo leather collars, No. 2805, regular price \$8.50, now \$6.55
Extra heavy leather gall-cure collar, regular price \$9.50, now \$7.45
Leather wagon harness, regular price \$40.00, now for \$27.95
Leather wagon harness, regular price \$65.00, now for \$44.85
Extra heavy leather breeching, regular price \$35.00, now \$26.30
Medium-weight leather breeching, regular price \$25.00, now \$13.85
Leather bridles, regular price, per pair \$7.50, now \$4.45
Special prices on all leather goods and saddles. For lack of space we can only mention a few of these prices.

BARGAINS ON WAGONS, BUGGIES, AND IMPLEMENTS

We will offer at bargain prices for cash Bain and Mitchell Wagons, Moon Brothers Buggies, John Deer Implements of all kinds. These special prices on farm implements, coming at the beginning of the season, give you the opportunity you have never had before, of buying them at real bargain prices.



BARGAINS IN FURNITURE

Iron beds, 2-inch posts, regular price \$13.50, now \$8.95
Heavy cotton mattresses, former price \$13.50, now \$7.95
Heavy bed springs, former price \$8.00, now \$4.35
Rocking chairs, former price \$5.85, now \$4.25
Rocking chairs, former price \$17.50, now \$12.50
EXTRA SPECIAL—One four-piece, old iron bed-room suite, regular price \$150.00, goes in this sale at \$95.00
EXTRA SPECIAL—One six-piece room suite, regular price \$300.00, this sale for \$150.00
Tapestry Brussels rugs, former price \$10.00, now \$5.00
Axminster rugs, former price \$15.00, priced at \$7.50
Round dining tables, regular price \$10.00, now \$5.00
Reduced prices on everything in the furniture line, such as Kitchen Cabinets, Chairs, Dressers, Chiffoniers, small floor rugs, window shades, tables. If you contemplate anything in the furniture line, the prices will sell the goods.

REMEMBER THE DATES—SATURDAY, JAN. 29 to and including WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9. These Sale Prices are

HELM-DILLEHAY & CO.

T. J. DILLEHAY, Manager

DE

REAL COST SALE

I am selling out the W. L. Dallas stock of Groceries at absolute cost. I must close out this stock, so everything must be sold.

If you haven't got the money, it will pay you to borrow at 10 per cent interest and buy groceries here now.

Come and see—can't quote prices—there are too many. But you'll know bargains when you see them.

EVERYTHING CASH—NO TICKETS

Russell Dallas

The Only Home-Print Paper
In the City of Decatur

The Wise County Messenger

Is the most popular paper in the homes of Wise county. It carries more local county news than any other paper. It has a purpose, and at all times is found boosting the interests of Delightful Decatur and Wonderful Wise. It champions the causes of civic righteousness, stands for progress in all lines—social, religious and educational. It is supported by the common people and therefore it feels its duty to champion the cause of the common people.

As an advertising medium it is second to none. Every subscription is paid in advance, and the paper stops when the subscription expires. Its paid up circulation is greater than all other county papers combined.

If You Want a Real County Newspaper

Subscribe Today!

\$1.50 per year—in advance!

Give your subscription to any postmaster, rural route carrier, or bring or mail to the Messenger, Decatur.

Skeptical persons are crying over the fact that we are already aiding in relief work for other countries and forgetting our own. America today is the richest and most prosperous nation on the globe. The \$35,000,000 that it is hoped will be raised by the council is to be spent in the United States in purchase of food. Europe has been unable to raise a sufficient amount to supply her own people and it is the duty

of this nation to come to their aid. Practically half of the fund has been raised up to this time, with a little more than one week to complete the total. Possibly forty thousand persons in the world have given something. Millions who can give have thus far remained silent. See the free show at Majestic Sunday afternoon and night.

Read the Classified advertisements

Abstracts made
County

All kinds of

CATERING
Decatur

Dallas is closing out the W. L. Dallas stock of groceries and will discontinue the store. Read his ad in this issue.

Nelson English, manager of the Red A poultry farm, states that the products of his poultry are paying the running expenses of his farm—and then some. Chickens beat cotton.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

A regular examination for all grades of teachers' certificates, both state and county, will be held at Decatur, Texas, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 4 and 5, 1921. The recent law enacted by the legislature does not permit any person to be granted a certificate who is under 17 years of age. B. F. ROE, County Supt.

Majestic Programme

Friday, January 28
"Tarnished Reputations"—A Feature

Saturday, January 29
"Ruth of the Rockies," Episode 3.
Starring Ruth Roland
"The Great Round-Up," a Western
"A Fishing Story," the Comedy

Sunday Afternoon and Night
Benefit program for Starving Children in Europe

Monday, January 29
A Goldwyn Feature

Tuesday, February 1
Olive Thomas in her Last Picture—
"Everybody's Sweetheart"

Wednesday, February 2
"Under Northern Lights," A Universal Special Feature and a Specialty Comedy

Thursday, February 3
"The Man Who Lost Himself," a Select Special, Featuring William Faversham

ENLISTMENT RALLY

An Enlistment Rally for the churches of the county begins at the Baptist church in Decatur, Friday night, and continues through Sunday. Dinner will be served at the church Saturday. A very interesting program is planned for Friday night. Come! R. E. BELL.

NOTICE.

I have for collection the accounts of the grocery firm of J. A. Moore, and all accounts may be paid at the Security State bank. Parties knowing themselves to be indebted to Mr. Moore are urgently requested to call at the bank and settle same. The accounts may be paid to the bank or to me personally. I. P. PORTER.

Williams (at breakfast table, grimly)—"Pass the butter."
Bigby (watching him put a chunk of it in his coffee)—"What's the idea, Ben?"
Williams—"I believe in the strong helping the weak."

CLASSIFIED ADS.

One Cent Per Word.

—CASH IN ADVANCE—

No Ad Taken for Less than 25c

LOST

LOST—Silver vanity case; has "B. S. F." on back. Reward. Return to MESSENGER OFFICE. (1)

WANTED

SALESMEN WANTED to solicit orders for lubricating oil, greases and paints. Salary or commission. Address THE HARVEY OIL CO., Cleveland, Ohio. (2)

WANTED—To buy one grey female goose. Bring to Messenger office.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Plenty of good Johnson grass hay. \$12.50 per ton at my barn. J. W. OATES, Rte 1, Decatur, Texas.

FOR SALE—Seven-room house, five lots, for \$2,000.00; \$500.00 cash, payments to suit. See FANNIE BRUNO, Decatur, Texas. (4)

FOR SALE—My dwelling in Southwest Decatur.—BEN WATKINS, Decatur. (1-f)

FOR SALE—Mammoth Bronze turkeys, late hatched; from best of Col. Lin county stock; hens, \$2.50, gobblers, \$3.00, at my home. MRS. J. T. PHILLIPS, Rte 8, Decatur (4)

FOR SALE—Seed oats, 65c and 75c per bushel, at my home east of Decatur.—CHAS. DAVIS. (3)

FOR SALE—Frost proof cabbage plants, 500 \$1.50, 1000 \$2.50, postpaid. 1000 \$2.00, 10,000 \$1.50 per 1000, express collect. — KINSEY WHOLESALE PLANT CO., Valdosta, Georgia. (7)

FOR SALE—Oak pole wood, 50c foot high on wagon; eight miles east of Decatur, on route 8.—ARCHIE PAGGETT. (2)

TO TRADE

FOR TRADE—I have 165 acres of good black land, 45 miles south of San Antonio and 40 acres irrigated south of Donna, Texas in lower Rio Grande valley. Want property in or near Decatur—what have you? W. I. GHORMLEY, Arlington, Tex. (3)

FOR RENT—My house in West Decatur. O. D. GOSE.

Mrs. Howard Man entertained with a bridge party at her home last Saturday afternoon. Quite a number of guests were present and a delightful occasion is reported.

Mrs. Carl Griner of this city has received word that her brother, Jack Stark of Justin, has his right arm broken last week while working in a sawmill near Justin.

The Shoemaker barber shop and the Coleman & Stepp tailor shop are preparing to move to the building just east of the City Meat Market on East Main street about Feb. 1st.

The children's society will hold a bazaar at Man & Christian's store Saturday afternoon. Proceeds to go to the starving children of Europe. Patronize the bazaar; help a good cause.

Attend the benefit tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Terrell Lillard next Friday afternoon and night; benefit of Decatur band.

Rev. Marvin Carpenter was here this week from Paradise, where he has been stationed as pastor of the Methodist church. Marvin graduated from Decatur college at the end of the last term.

Pastor Patton is conducting a protracted meeting at Oak Grove this week which will continue through Sunday. Services are being held at night only. A good attendance and lively interest is reported.

Drew Rhine, who has been seriously ill at his home near Decatur for some time, is reported to be growing weaker. He was recently returned from a Ft. Worth sanitarium, where he went for special treatment.

The infant of Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Compton died at the family home in the Oliver Creek country last Friday.

Father Dreiling of Henrietta, will conduct Catholic mass at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Green this morning.

J. V. Mohrtrier, deputy collector of income tax, will be at the following places on the dates given for the purpose of assisting the public in making the income tax reports: Decatur, February 17, 18, 19; Alvord, February 16; Bridgeport, February 14.

The Majestic picture show in Decatur is co-operating in the national drive for child feeding fund. "Every ten spot saves a tot" is the motto of the workers. One ten dollar bill will feed a child one meal a day for a year. This is very close figuring when most of the American public spend that much for food each week. Sunday afternoon and night.

The Magnolia Oil Co., with a force of one hundred and fifty men, will begin work in this vicinity in a few days, taking up and repainting the pipe line of the company which runs near town. This work will require several weeks and a number of the men with the force have families and they are seeking homes in Decatur. Seven houses were rented in the city yesterday to house a part of the force. Headquarters for the crews will be in Decatur.

Mr. Bill Stepp and bride of Graham, have been visiting relatives here this week. The happy couple were married at Graham last Saturday. The bride was Miss Maurine Norman of Graham, a member of a prominent family and a charming girl. Mr. Stepp is a former Decatur boy, the son of our townsman, Ira Stepp. He was reared here and has many good friends in this section. He is industrious and capable, and is prospering in his new home. Messenger extends congratulations.

The town basketball team defeated the college Wednesday night in one of the closest and hardest fought games of the season. The final score was 36 to 32. The college led the first half 14 to 11, and continued in the lead up to the last five minutes of play. During this five minutes the town bunch threw three goals and won the game. Fullingim, Baits and Christian did splendid work for the towners, while Petty, Gentry and Kirk stepped out for the collegians. Kirk made a sensational goal. R. Renshaw was in five minutes for the college and rung three goals before he could be stopped.

Mr. Ballard Powell of Slidell, and Miss Tynne Byrd Young of Greenwood, were married at Greenwood last Saturday afternoon. The newly-weds left at once for a visit to Mineral Wells, returning yesterday. Mr. Powell is a splendid young fellow, a former student at the Baptist College, and is well liked among those who know him. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Young, prominent citizens of the Greenwood country, and is a young lady of many admirable traits and charming manner, and popular among a host of friends. Messenger extends congratulations.

With 3,500,000 children in Europe starving for lack of food, the motion picture industry has called upon its forces to get behind the movement in an effort to help put it over the top. A personal subscription of all theatre owners and managers has already been materialized. Sunday, January 30, designated as motion picture day.

A. V. McAnear was here Tuesday from Boyd.

Try a sack of Bewley's Best. Geney & Parr.

F. F. Jones was here Sunday from Breckenridge.

Walter Dyer was here from Fort Worth Friday.

Paul Harding of Groesbeck, was in town Sunday.

C. W. Martin was here Tuesday from Bridgeport.

J. F. (Hoss) Lillard was here Sunday from Temple.

Ab Moore has returned from a stay in Mandlett, Okla.

Arnold Davenport of Austin was visiting here Sunday.

Mrs. S. J. Tucker has been visiting in Fort Worth.

E. B. Melton was here this week from Wichita Falls.

Paul Bennett was here this week from Wichita Falls.

Fresh bread received every morning at Buttrill Bros.

Burch Gregg was in Gainesville Saturday and Sunday.

Get a peck of those good old sweet potatoes at Buttrill Bros.

Grandma E. C. Terrell is improving from a severe illness.

Mrs. D. F. Davis has returned from a visit to Oklahoma.

Miss Naomi Scott has been visiting friends in Fort Worth.

Henry G. Ward was here Sunday and Monday from Wichita.

Mr. and Mrs. Silas Lynch were here Sunday from Fort Worth.

Dr. Ted Payne and family were here Sunday from Bridgeport.

If you have any residence property for sale, see R. L. Blankenship.

Mrs. L. D. Shawver has returned from a visit to her sister in Waco.

Mrs. Rufus Lindley has returned from a visit to relatives in Justin.

If you have any residence property for sale, see R. L. Blankenship.

Jim Rogers of El Paso, was here last week visiting his brother, M. L.

Bonnie St. Clair is now teaching the Booth Prairie school near Chico.

Rev. W. E. Hand and family of Aubrey, were here with friends this week.

Attorneys Patterson and Lobdell were in Ft. Worth on legal business Tuesday.

Jim Trimble of Halsell, was here this week visiting Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Breedlove.

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Patterson and children have been visiting in Fort Worth this week.

My dwelling for sale in Southwest Decatur. Ben Watkins, Decatur.

Alfred Brown, with Simmons Co., was in Central Texas on business this week.

Mrs. Fred Milligan of Greenwood, has returned from a visit to relatives in Fort Worth.

Richard Mann, with the Electra Hardware Co. of Electra, was here on a visit to his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. George Splawn leave today for a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Milburn Arnett in San Antonio.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Lillard were in Fort Worth this week visiting their son, Warren, who underwent an operation there last week. Warren is reported as improving.

...a better breed of hogs or
...Instead of paths they'll build up to your
...A railroad track, on which will daily
...Trains bringing men from Boston and
...Seattle
...And half the towns which lie between, to
...battle
...For all the stock you have for sale and
...more.
...Nor can you hope to dwell on any byway.
...If you produce a truly better breed
...Of any good farm product, A great high-
...way
...Will come to you the most direct and high
...way
...And you'll live easy in the soft-as-ple
...way.
...Because you've got the stuff folks really
...need.
...—L. S., in Reclamation Record.

ODD DESIGN FOR CITY HALL
If Adopted, Detroit Will Have the
Most Striking Municipal Building
in the United States.

In the 25 years of study on a pro-
posed new city hall for Detroit, many
plans have been submitted for approval.
This six-sided towerlike structure has been suggested by an archi-
tectural firm of the city. It is pro-
posed that this building be erected on

This was Smertz's moment for de-
ferred vengeance. As quick as light-
ning he swung his ax and sprang the
hook of the guide rope from the sock-
et. On the instant the huge log gather-
ed headway down the taut wire. Some
one screamed, "Jump, Dave, jump!"
But there was no time.

All this happened in a flash. I threw
myself face down upon the log and
gripped the sling chains with a grip
of death. Bushes, ground and tree
stumps flew backward beneath me in
a mad blur of speed. The racing
sheaves, in their iron block casing,
screamed and shrielled. Fire flashed
from them. Fire ran along the wire.
Showers of sparks flew out upon the
wind.

Suddenly there was a jar, the grind
and shriek of metal on metal. I
screamed and closed my eyes. There
was a jerk that wrenched my arms
in their sockets, and the mad rush
stopped. The strained wire above
sprang, bent again and hummed like
a twanged bowstring. The log, hang-
ing beneath, leaped up and down, up
and down. I was jolted from my hold
and, for a horrible minute, with one
hand clutched in the chains, hung over
the abyss. Slowly, painfully, I dragged
myself up again. My nerves were in
rags, my limbs shook, and my teeth
chattered. I took off my belt and,
reeving it through a chain link, shift-
ed position; then I rebuckled the
strong leather round my waist.

This is what had happened. The pin
the lower block had worked loose.
The wire had jumped the groove in
the sheave wheel becoming jammed
between it and the iron casing, and
the log had braked itself by its own
weight.

A stiff wind had blown during the
afternoon, and with night it hardened
into a gale from the southeast. It
roared, swooping through the defile.
Rain and wind-driven hail hissed
across the darkness in fierce gusts.
Flannel shirt and trousers, which re-
presented all my clothing, were little
protection against the fierce cold. I
could not move to ease my position.
Ice formed on the chains and on the
wood; my clothing froze hard and stiff.

The night was as dark as the mouth
of a pit. A single big star broke at
intervals through the wrack of flying
scud. I watched it idly as I lay in a
sort of trance.

I awoke in a warm bed. It was
dark, my close companion, that had
come out along the wire in the morn-
ing after the storm. He had brought
with him a sort of chair of strong
rope running on a pulley; but how he
had managed on that swaying, slippery
to get me helpless and uncon-
scious into the chair I do not know.
The boss got him away
from the boys, locked him inside his
cell and stood guard over him until
the police came. Otherwise they
would have killed him.

Famed Memorial Trees.
On the beautiful capitol grounds in
Sacramento, Cal., there is a group of
trees set out because of their historical
interest, says the American Forestry
Journal of Washington. There is a
red maple from Antietam, Md.; a
white elm from near McKinley's tomb,
Canton, O.; a white ash from Vicks-
burg, Miss., and many others from
other distinctive points. These
trees are studied with surpassing in-
terest by visitors from many states
and foreign lands. Could anything
more befitting to the memory of a
soldier than to plant a walnut
grown from a nut produced at
historical points as these?

Up Appearance.
A rivalry between Mrs. Gad-
sden and Mrs. Jibway as to which
finer car still going on?
The rivalry was suddenly interrupted.
The proceedings. It looks
like they have to start all over

on the Girls.
The girls make a lot of
noise."

worked out
didn't take
a dozen

Old Records Recently Unearthed
Seem to Show That the Wiscon-
sin City Is Misplaced.

If some day you should see the ad-
dress written "Chicago, Wis." or
"Beloit, Ill." don't guffaw loudly and
accuse someone of ignorance of geo-
graphy. Urban A. Lavery, chief drafts-
man of the Illinois constitutional con-
vention's committee on phraseology
and style, unearthed records which al-
most forced the Chicago politicians to
go to Madison instead of Springfield.
The records showed that the original
southern boundary of Wisconsin was
on a line with the southern end of
Lake Michigan.

The government in dividing up the
Northwest territory in 1787 so stipu-
lated, but one Nathaniel Pope per-
suaded congress to include the terri-
tory including Chicago in the enabling
act making Illinois a state, relieving
Wisconsin of much in the matter of
crime records.

As for Beloit, commonly supposed
to be in Wisconsin, it was discovered
that the Illinois general assembly in
1831 started out to fix the northern
boundary of the state "by celestial ob-
servation." Through an error Illinois
grabbed off some Wisconsin territory
near the lake, and gave away some
Illinois territory further west, leaving
the business district of Beloit, which
is really in Illinois under the old sur-
vey, in Wisconsin.

RANKS WITH NATION'S GREAT
Services of John Marshall of Virginia,
Famous Jurist, Live in the
Pages of History.

John Marshall was one of America's
greatest jurists. He was the third
chief justice and was an aristocrat by
birth and breeding. He kept a retinue
of colored servants.

Robin Spudlock, Marshall's body
servant, wore long, fine stockings of
brilliant colors and traveled around
with his master. His appearance was
so unique that once in Philadelphia,
when he was walking alone with an
air of considerable importance, a mob
gathered and threatened him with
violence, as a black valet was quite un-
usual in those parts. It is recorded.
He was a faithful servant, however,
and a bequest in Marshall's will
showed the chief justice's apprecia-
tion.

Marshall was born in Fauquier
county, Virginia, in 1755. He died July
6, 1835, at Philadelphia. He served in
the Revolutionary war; was a member
of the Virginia convention to ratify the
Constitution in 1788; was a United
States envoy to France, 1797-1798;
was a member of congress from Vir-
ginia, 1799-1800; was secretary of
state, 1800-1801, and was chief justice
of the United States Supreme court
from 1801 to 1835.

The Green Flash.
A correspondent of the English Me-
chanic and World of Science an-
nounces that he saw a green flash at
the close of a sunset at sea. On Satur-
day, June 26, 1920, he writes, there
was a clear sunset at Fleetwood over a
sea horizon, and I was fortunate
enough to see with the naked eye a
faint green flash on the tip of the
sinking sun. The sun's disk, before
setting, was quite regular in outline,
and the color was a delicate pink that
gradually changed to a dull orange.
Just as the last segment disappeared
below the sea level the vanishing edge
turned from bright yellow to emerald
green. The evening was beautifully
clear, with a gentle northerly wind.

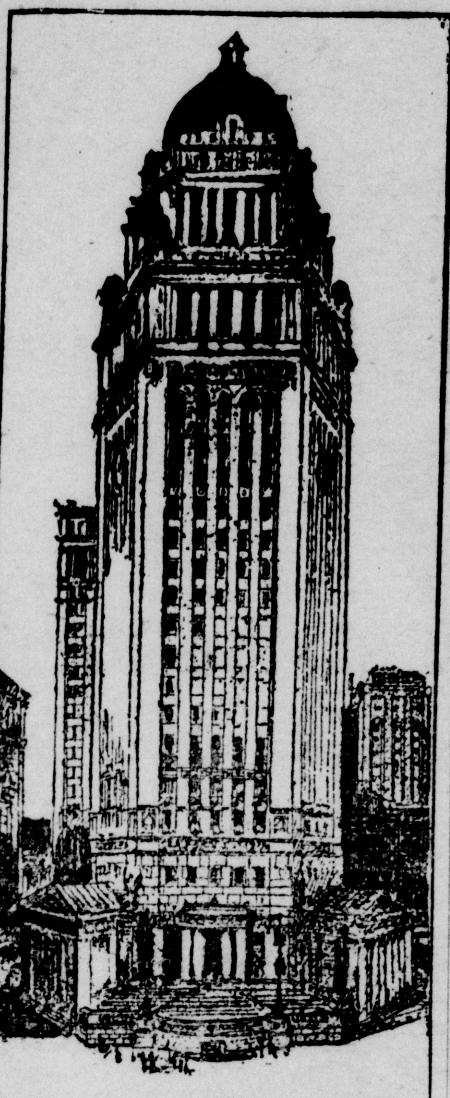
Parsnip Had Put on Ring.
Digging his parsnips in his garden
at Outremont, Montreal, a man dis-
covered one root that during its growth
found a ring in the soil which it forth-
with put on. It had grown some eight
or ten inches after that, and on either
side of the ring bulged out consid-
erably. In its efforts to grow uniformly
it had forced the ring asunder on one
side, but not enough to enable it to
thicken to more than a fourth of the
diameter of the parsnip above and be-
low the ring.

Crows Went on Warpath.
While out duck hunting a man in
St. Louis City, Ia., shot a solitary crow.
The wounded bird uttered cries for
help and hundreds of crows came to
its aid. They attacked the hunter and
although he shot down numbers of the
birds the others beat him about the
head with wings and beaks. Eventu-
ally darkness fell and the hunter was
able to escape to a willow patch. The
crows being unable to find him re-
turned to their roost.

Not His Time to Die.
Shot into the air when an ex-
press train hit an automobile at a
grade crossing near Sunbury, Pa., Rich-
ard Thomas seized an iron rod on the
pilot of the locomotive as he descend-
ed, and when the train was brought to
a stop, 300 feet further on, he was
found perched on the cow-catcher, only
slightly hurt. The car was entirely
ruined.

Remarkable Triple Wedding.
A mother, her daughter and her son
were all married in a triple wedding,
which took place at St. Mary's church,
London. Mrs. Catherine Austin was
married to Mr. S. Kite; Miss Ada Austin
to Mr. H. Knight, and the son, R.
Austin, married Miss Pinnocks.

Gave It Away.
Drayton—I've never been ill in my
life.
Mrs. Ellerker—Oh, indeed; then
where was my husband last Tuesday
night? He told me he was sitting up
with you.



Of Striking Appearance.



A NEW AILMENT

Hello Bill! How do you feel?
My hip's been givin' me a good bit
of trouble here lately Joe.
Anything serious Bill?
Nope! I slipped and fell th' other
day, and the doctor says that he
hasn't quite gotten all the glass out
of it yet.

Disgusted Gander.
"Hezekiah," a large gander on the
farm of Arthur Sparring, Cambridge,
Nova Scotia, went daily to his favorite
apple tree, and taking hold of a
low-hanging branch, shook it until an
apple fell, repeating the performance
until satisfied. The day after the ap-
ples were gathered he walked as usual
to the tree, gave one shake, then
stood back, looked up at the tree, and
walked away disgusted.

Hint for Keepers of Pet Rats.
A lady scientist at a session of the
British association stated that rats
fed on bananas learned far more
quickly than others given an ordinary
diet.

Would Furnish Many Suppers.
A lobster measuring four feet across
with feelers extended has been caught
on a flounder hook, at Treshnish Isles,
west of Mull, Scotland.

ROCKEFELLER AT HEAD OF LIST

Oil King's Estate Is Now Estimated
at Between Three and Five Bil-
lion—Veritable Dynasty in Every
Important Industry.

New York.—Fifty families in the
United States control over \$100,000,000
each, 100 families control over \$50-
000,000 each, and 500 families control
over \$10,000,000 each.

John D. Rockefeller's estate is now
up to \$3,000,000,000.

Five billion dollars of wealth in the
United States has been handed down
to heirs, many of whom were incom-
petents, in the last fifteen years.

Two hundred persons in the United
States control \$15,000,000,000; in
France the same amount is controlled
by 480 times that number of people,
or 96,000.

Dynasties to Fore.
Industrially the United States is be-
coming dynastic—there is a veritable
dynasty in each important industrial
structure, some of which are:

Sixty per cent of the tobacco trust
wealth is in the hands of ten families.
Twelve families, with the Rockefel-
er family away in the lead, control
50 per cent of the oil industry.

The railroads of the country are
controlled by 1.3 per cent of the stock-
holders.

One and five-tenths per cent of the
stockholders in the steel trust possess
51 per cent of the stock.

Two families control 51 per cent of
the stock in the harvester interests.

These startling figures on the con-
centration of wealth in the United
States were obtained from Henry H.
Klein, deputy commissioner of ac-
counts of New York city and a deep
student of economic affairs. He has
spent ten years collecting concrete
facts on the pyramiding of American
wealth.

Mr. Klein's attention was called to
the recent statement of George P.
Hampton, managing director of the
Farmers' National council, that 33 in-
dividuals own 2 per cent of the en-
tire American wealth. He estimated
this 2 per cent at about \$4,837,000,
000. Mr. Hampton gave no names,
but the following list of individuals
and estates and their vast holdings,
checked up to a recent date, was given
by Mr. Klein:

Estate or individual—	Amount.
John D. and William Rocke-	
efeller, \$3,000,000,000 to.....	\$5,000,000,000
Farr family.....	400,000,000
Harkness.....	400,000,000
Carnegie.....	300,000,000
Weyerhaeuser estate.....	300,000,000
Vanderbilts.....	300,000,000
Astors.....	300,000,000
Payne Whitney family.....	200,000,000
Fricks estate.....	150,000,000
Goelets.....	100,000,000
J. J. Hill estate.....	100,000,000
Hetty Green estate.....	100,000,000
Held estate.....	100,000,000
Harriman.....	100,000,000
Morgans, \$150,000,000 to.....	200,000,000
Flagler estate.....	100,000,000
Anthony Brady estate.....	100,000,000
Gould estate.....	100,000,000
Wildener.....	80,000,000
George Farr Bakers.....	80,000,000
Stilmons.....	60,000,000
Isaac Stevenson.....	70,000,000
Kennedy-Todd group.....	75,000,000
Sage estate.....	50,000,000
Blair estate.....	50,000,000
Rhinelanders.....	50,000,000
Rogers.....	50,000,000
Armours.....	100,000,000
Swift.....	100,000,000
A. C. James family.....	60,000,000
Cleveland Dodge.....	60,000,000
Archbold estate.....	50,000,000
Mills estate.....	50,000,000
Daniel Reid estate.....	50,000,000
Plant estate.....	50,000,000
Morris.....	50,000,000
Pullman estate.....	50,000,000
Searles estate.....	50,000,000

There are many families Mr. Klein
mentioned in the \$40,000,000 class,
and this includes Mrs. William Leeds,
now Princess Christopher of Greece,
and Alexander Smith Cochrane, until
recently America's "richest bachelor"
and now the husband of Mme. Ganna
Walska, opera singer.

Mr. Klein's list, which is several
pages long, does not go below the \$10-
000,000 class.

**Called Fire Department to
Quench Flames Inside Him**

Seeing a man rush up to a
fire alarm box and turn in an
alarm, Patrolman Winner of
the New York city police de-
partment, inquired where the
fire was. "Inside me," gasped
Joseph Marone of Wooster, O.
"I drank booze and want the
firemen to run a hose down my
throat and extinguish the
flames."

The patrolman told the fire-
men where the fire was, but
took Marone to the police sta-
tion.

Belgium Reclaiming Its Soil.
Washington.—Belgium is making
good progress rebuilding farms and
rehabilitating agricultural production.
Reports from the American consul
at Brussels show that at the end of
the first nine months of 1920 more
than 61,775 acres out of about 148,200
acres of war-swept soil had been put
into condition for cultivation.

Paint Rock, Ala.—Mrs. ...
of near here, recently related the fol-
lowing interesting account of her re-
covery: "I was in a weakened con-
dition. I was sick three years in bed,
suffering a great deal of pain, weak,
nervous, depressed. I was so weak,
I couldn't walk across the floor; just
had to lay and my little ones do the
work. I was almost dead. I tried
everything I heard of, and a number of
doctors. Still I didn't get any relief.
I couldn't eat, and slept poorly. I
believe if I hadn't heard of and taken
Cardul I would have died. I bought
six bottles, after a neighbor told me
what it did for her.

"I began to eat and sleep, began to
gain my strength and am now well
and strong. I haven't had any trou-
ble since. I sure can testify to the
good that Cardul did me. I don't
think there is a better tonic made
and I believe it saved my life."

For over 40 years, thousands of wo-
men have used Cardul successfully,
in the treatment of many womanly
ailments.

If you suffer as these women did,
take Cardul. It may help you, too.
At all druggists. E 85

OLD RELIABLE!
There are tens of
thousands who real-
ized the benefits of
the growth-promot-
ing properties of
**SCOTT'S
EMULSION**
in childhood,
who now give
it regularly to
their children.
You may depend
upon Scott's Emulsion!
Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.
ALSO MAKERS OF
KI-MOIDS
(Tablets or Granules)
FOR INDIGESTION

**Prompt
Relief**
From Neuralgia and
Headache has resulted in
thousands of cases from
the use of
**DR. MILES'
Anti-Pain Pills**
The Quick Relief
This reliable prepara-
tion has been before the
public many years—is
free from Opiates, Nar-
cotics or any habit form-
ing drugs and no ill ef-
fects follow its extended
use.
Easy and pleasant to
take. Money back if
first package fails to re-
lieve or satisfy. Get a
box today and have it
handy.
SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS

Keep Them Growing
Children who are over-thin,
listless or delicate, should take
Scott's Emulsion
regularly over a long period.
Nothing else will do it.
Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil
with Hypophosphites
Scott's Emulsion
20-06

**STR
CIGAR**

**DONALDSON'S
BREAKS RE**

Hinkle & Tucker, buyers
and whole milk, report that
the cow has captured the w
ord with regard to high-test
This wonderful cow belongs
fellow-townsmen, Henry De
One day this week Mr. De
brought in a quantity of whe
to the Hinkle & Tucker age
when Mr. Tucker tested the
registered 14 per cent but
This so amazed Mr. Tucker th
made yet another test, thinking
was something wrong with his
ing apparatus. But no; the
was so remarkable that Mr. Tuc
reported it to the Messenger in or
to herald to the world that Dea
had gone above the world's reco
by 6 per cent; and the Messenge
being always proud to acclaim
wonders of this Delightful Town,
is passing the news on to the waiti
populace, and at the same time con-
gratulates both the cow and Mr. Don-
aldson on this fine record.

Judge Chas. F. Spencer of Wich-
ita Falls, passed through the city last
Sunday enroute to Austin on busi-
ness.

CARD OF THANKS.
We wish to thank our many
friends of Decatur and country for
their kindness and attention during
the illness and loss of our husband
and father, Especially John Dixon
and Clyde Maiden and wife. May
you never know the sorrow of our
loss, and God bless you.—MRS. B.
TER BROWN AND CHILDREN.

**Belew's
Barber Shop**
Sanitary and
Satisfactory Service.
Your Patronage
Appreciated.

Spencer Bldg. West Side

**Owen's
a rber
Shop**
Best of Service
in Tonsorial
Work
North Trinity Street

**Buy It
Either
Way
Tablets
or Liquid
PE-RU-NA**
A Great Medicine
Mrs. M. J. Riley, R. R. No. 1, Box 104, Cal-
vert, Texas, writes:
"I have used Pe-ru-na and know it is good
for colds, coughs and catarrh. It cured my
catarrh and I do not take cold when I
Pe-ru-na. It is a great medicine."
During the last fifty years, Pe-ru-na has been
looked upon as the reliable medicine for
catarrh of every description, whether it be of
the nose and throat, stomach, bowels or other
organs.
By keeping Pe-ru-na in the house for emer-
gencies, serious sickness may frequently be
prevented. Use it after the grip or Spanish Flu.
Sold Everywhere